



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**  
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**Statement of Support: SB 5538**  
**Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee**  
**Submitted by: Genoa Ingram**  
**February 20, 2025**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA), formed in 1950, serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards, who serve without compensation, are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts.

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), formed in 1957, offers an annual training conference for volunteers, both members and non-members, providing hands-on and classroom training as well as networking opportunities. These conferences rotate around the state, helping educate and train Oregon's 8,760 volunteer firefighters who must adhere to the same training requirements as paid career firefighters.

Both OFDDA and OVFA strongly support the work of the State Fire Marshal. The entire staff works tirelessly year-round to plan for the safety of Oregon's citizens, whether it be through the Fire and Life Safety Committee, prevention of structure fires, wildfire mitigation, public education and information, or coordinating response teams within and outside of Oregon. For these reasons, we encourage an increase in the proposed upstaffing funding package for the 2025-27 biennium in the amount of \$6 million per year/\$12 million for the biennium, rather than the \$10 million proposed.

We have seen the new department take on new programs and responsibilities and we encourage fully funding of all existing and proposed programs needed to carry out these vital and evolving public safety directives. We are also strongly in support of Policy Option Package 102 which appropriates staffing support to meet the mandate of the legislatively mandated expansion of the self-serve gasoline program, and Policy Option Package 103, which will fund much needed staffing, services, and supplies for the Community Risk Reduction Program.

As Rep. Gomberg pointed out in a recent newsletter, "A fundamental responsibility of government is to keep people safe." We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of our neighbors to the South by failing to support all fire and life safety programs to the fullest extent possible. We urge your support of SB 5538 with a recommendation for a fully funded Department of State Fire Marshal.